

LOGOS II

The Word of



Harpeth Hall

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November 1996

School Cancels Assembly

by Kristen Campbell

On November 11, members of the Executive Board of Trustees and Mrs. Rhys canceled the Beyond Hate Assembly which had planned to address discrimination against homosexuals. School officials have been deliberately vague about their reasons for cutting the assembly, recognizing the sensitive nature of this issue. The school's smoke screen approach, however, has been largely ineffective, leaving students of all opinions wondering what exactly is going on.

It is clear that while the school has taken a definite stance against the assembly, it has also given its complete support to the Beyond Hate club. Yet despite the concern administrators seem to genuinely feel at having to cancel the assembly, it now appears that

they are more concerned with a student appeasement policy.

In a letter not issued to students and their parents, the school detailed the exact reasons they didn't feel the assembly was appropriate. Mrs. Rhys asserted that because of all the negative phone calls, the program would not have the effects the Beyond Hate Club had hoped. The letter also says, however, that the school was concerned about a panel of "attractive young people" discussing issues involving homosexuality.

The key concern for parents has been that the gay and lesbian panel was on a mission to recruit Harpeth Hall students to their homosexual lifestyles. Few people stopped to examine the purpose of the assembly, which was to promote respect, not encourage homosexuality.

The Executive Board of Trustees also declared that

they couldn't separate the speakers' sexuality from their message of tolerance. Beyond Hate members assert that this prejudice proves how necessary the program was.

Another factor was the threats of several parents to withdraw money or remove their daughters from the school. As Parents' Board President Elaine Jackson stated, "The parents do pay the tuition." Executive Board of Trustees President Robert C. Hilton, however, declares that he was not aware of any monetary threats.

Filling the time scheduled for the canceled panel was an informal "town meeting," in which students could voice their concerns. Students of all religious backgrounds stood up in support of the assembly, while not a single girl spoke in favor

See what
students think
on pages 4-6

of the administration's decision. The open forum response, however, was not indicative of the actual attitude of the school, as a large number of the students still feel the assembly was inappropriate.

Yet others feel that the controversy has educated more members of the community than the panel would have. The issues of homosexuality and human rights have been discussed and debated in the hallways, the Bear Lair, at sports practices, and after school; more than just being a thirty-minute assembly, addressing the school's homophobia has been a week-long process.

The controversy itself, however, has still left many students angry and discouraged by the school's lack of tolerance. The school's refusal to level with students about the reasons behind the decision has only increased student tensions.

The Harpeth Hall community obviously felt that, as Mrs. Rhys stated, the assembly was "not the right vehicle, nor the right time" to discuss homophobia. This issue, however, right time or not, will resurface, and the school and students need to do a better job of handling it next time.

HH Learns From, Enjoys Community Service Day

By Molly Arvin

On Friday, October 25, over 20 Harpeth Hall freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and faculty members left their books and plaid skirts behind and went into the Nashville community. Within each group, the students and teachers spent five hours working at their agencies, such as the Owl's Hill Nature Center, the Hospital Hospitality House, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Harris-Hillman School, to name a few.

The Student Council, and especially Julia Brown, were the instrumental organizers of Community Service Day and strove diligently to place each advisor at a group site that would be both enjoyable for the students and beneficial to the community. "The student council girls worked really hard

to place us where we wanted to go," remarked Mrs. Beigl, emphasizing that their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

As well as providing an opportunity for students to leave class for a day, Community Service Day allows them to make a meaningful contribution to their community. Whether raking leaves, speaking with patients in a nursing home, or reading to disabled children, the work done on Community Service Day is invaluable to its recipient. Mrs. Beigl happily comments, "All these places are equally important, and we can do great work wherever we go."

In fact, the work that each Harpeth Hall girl does as a volunteer saves the recipient an estimated \$12.50 per hour. This money can then be put to use in programs within the sites. Laura

Marie Reed, who went to Second Harvest Food Bank said that they sorted thousands of canned foods into 475 boxes feeding 1,900 people for three days. Obviously, our help is not calculated only by numbers, but is immeasurable. At the end of the assembly on Friday, it seemed that every student and teacher had a smile of their faces, feeling good about having spent a day concentrating on giving to other people.

Again, a special thank you to Mrs. Vest, student council sponsor, Julia Brown, president, and the other members for upholding the valuable tradition of Community Service Day. Each student also should give herself a "pat on the back," for all your hard work last Friday.



A group of seniors lend a hand at Second Harvest Food Bank.
photo by Julia Brown

Seniors Struggle With Their College Choices

by Beth Kautzman

Now that the first of the year is over and we are all beginning to settle into the school routine seniors find themselves facing a difficult question at every turn.

"Where are you going to college?" The question fills every conversation as deadlines rapidly approach and we, the seniors, find our lives consumed by the writing of essays and typing of applications. I've talked to several seniors and asked their opinion on the college search.

Melissa Batchelor says, "I really don't think people should change who they are so that they can look good on an application." Susan Rankin finds it frustrating because it's hard to portray the "real you" on paper. "It's insane, how they expect you to put your entire personality on paper. We're 3-D people not 2-dimensional figures."

My take on the

situation is that it's a lot easier if you don't make it any more stressful than it has to be. Every Harpeth Hall student in history has been placed somewhere-100%. I had a long talk with Mrs. Barringer about feeling like you have to be "in love" with a school to attend. She told me that it's okay not to be in love, in fact most people aren't. Most people find a school they like and when they go, they then grow to love it. "The lucky ones do fall in love, but the majority of girls don't feel a fierce passion until after they get there."

I would like to wish all of my fellow seniors the best of luck in this process, and remember, this is something we will all survive. You can always follow Jenifer Padgett's model if you get too exasperated. She rolled her eyes back into her head, sighed deeply with a welp of emotion and replied, "Just give me the number for ITT Tech."

Get The Scoop On This Season's TV Programs

by Molly Kaplan and Erika Wilkinson

Anyone who has turned on a television lately knows that the fall line-up is jam-packed with new shows. Some shows are filled with laughter, while others are a romantic's dream. With so many shows to choose from, we thought you might need a little help to pick which ones are worth watching and which ones aren't.

"Suddenly Susan" is a new comedy starring Brooke Shields. Despite the promising advertisements, this show has failed to measure up to people's expectations. It seems like NBC has taken characters from other hit shows and stuck them together in this attempt to recreate a popular show (such as "Friends"). We give "Suddenly Susan" two thumbs down, and we don't think that television is a good career choice for Brooke Shields.

"Spin City" is a very funny show with everyone's childhood crush, Michael J. Fox. It is about a guy who is running the New York City mayor's office. To complicate things a little more, he has to hold together his relationship with his

girlfriend, who is a reporter (she's also the daughter from "Son-In-Law"). This is a very funny, fast-paced comedy, so we give it two thumbs up.

The next show is actually a day-time talk show. A refreshing new look gives the "Rosie O'Donnell Show" a great boost. You are always laughing about either Rosie's daily stories, or her thoughts about her fantasy husband, Tom Cruise. The show is on in the late afternoon, but it has the format of a late-night talk show. It is a good change from the Jenny Jones and Ricki Lake styled shows. This is a great hit with most people, and we give it two thumbs up.

Those of you who enjoyed Bill Cosby and Patricia Rashad in "The Cosby Show" will love their new show, "Cosby." It is about a husband who has been laid off and is looking for work and his wife. Rashad and Cosby have great on-screen chemistry together and are very funny. We give it two thumbs up.

"Mr. Rhodes," a new NBC show, is about a young teacher who is teaching at a boarding school. Much of the show is about his relationships

with other teachers. There is an older teacher who doesn't like Mr. Rhodes's way of dealing with the kids, and there is a female teacher that Mr. Rhodes has a romantic interest in. We give this show one thumb up and one thumb down because although it can be funny, it will probably not make your list of favorite shows. We have not spoken to many who seem to be fans of the show. Also, we recommend that Mr. Rhodes gets a haircut — picture Kenny G.

"Relativity," from the makers of "My-So-Called-Life" and "Thirtysomething," is sure to be a new hit. It is about a couple who meet and fall in love during one day in Europe. The show deals with the family's response to the new couple, and the girl, Isabelle, dumping her fiancée and moving in with her new love. "Relativity" is very romantic and fun, and those who like "My-So-Called-Life" will surely like this one. We gave it one thumb up and one thumb down because it does tend to drag a bit.

All the new fall shows are at least funny for some people, so (if you can take time away from all that homework), watch them and make your own choices.

HH's Bagel Obsession

by Susan Wesley and Vanessa Falk

Okay, so what's the deal with Harpeth Hall girls and bagels? What is so spectacular about the taste of bread in the shape of a doughnut? It seems like our whole community is obsessed with these holey objects. Is it because they are getting the pleasure of eating a

plump doughnut minus the fat? Or, are bagels just the latest fad among upper school girls?

Instead of having regular fund-raisers, Harpeth Hall has, guess what? Bagel breakfasts. Mrs. Higgins used to look forward to sweet treats at faculty meetings, but not anymore — the treats there are bagels too. The sophomore

class has frequently been criticized for their lunches consisting only of a bagel and water, but they do claim they eat other food. Are you a bagel fanatic? It seems that pretty soon "bagel" will become our new mascot if our obsession doesn't stop. Will that happen? I guess only time will tell.

Book Store Announcements

Christie Cookies and Harpeth Hall — what a combination!

This holiday season, the HH Bookstore will offer a specially designed Harpeth Hall Holiday Tin filled with Christie Cookies. Orders will be delivered to the bookstore on Friday, December 13, just in time for the entertaining and gift-giving rush.

The tins, adorned with the Harpeth Hall logo, will be filled with a sampling of those delicious Christie Cookies: two chocolate chip, two white chocolate with macadamia nuts and two oatmeal/raisin. Deadline for orders is Friday, December 6; cost is \$11 plus tax. For more information or to place your order, please stop by the bookstore, located in Souby Hall by the Senior House.

Gift Certificates now available.

Friends and family of Harpeth Hall will enjoy receiving or giving a Gift Certificate from the Harpeth Hall Bookstore. Minimum certificate is \$5 redeemable for store merchandise or store credit. Get yours today! Available exclusively at the HH Bookstore.

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Tucker Would Drive 1,000 Miles To See Pearl Jam

by Jessica Tucker

Traveling over 1,000 miles in two days isn't that bad — when you're going to see Pearl Jam (rock)! They were completely amazing and very generous to their fans. Pearl Jam played 27 songs in 2 hours and 15 minutes, and 10 of those songs were the encore. At the North Charleston Coliseum there were 3,000 slam-dancing moshers to go along with the other 8,000 ticket holders at this sold-out South Carolina show.

Pearl Jam started the show off with Eddie Vedder playing guitar on "Sometimes," the first song off of their most recent album, *No Code*, released August 27. On a stage lighted by candles, a lava lamp, and an oversized homemade chandelier, Pearl Jam played to an audience lit by spotlights during songs with audience participation and

heavy moshing. Lighters were whipped out during "Black," "Elderly Woman Behind a Counter in a Small Town," "Off He Goes," and "Footsteps." A mirrorball also rotated during a few of those slower-paced songs.

Vedder was his standard self, contorting his face intensely, leaning forward and backwards with emotion, and singing with gut-wrenching accuracy. He came on stage wearing a black, long-sleeved, button-down shirt, dark green pants, and black boots. After a few songs, Vedder would stoop down to sip his tea resting near the mike, which helped his voice to sound as great as it did!

Pearl Jam must have played "Jeremy" a couple of hundred too many times because while Vedder was singing, Ament, McCready, and Gossard talked while they played their parts in front of the drum kit,

pounded by their newest member, Jack Irons. Even so, they inspired awe-struck looks.

I think Vedder became fond of Charleston that day, especially because of the eagerness of the horde. He decided earlier that day that they would play "Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town" because he thought of that song as they bummed around town. Vedder was very enthusiastic, acting like he really enjoyed the energetic crowd; he even dedicated "Whipping" to the pit because he knew that they took one.

McCready must have been having a good night on guitar because during his solos the rest of the band stood back in awe, and Vedder clapped for him.

After chanting for Pearl Jam to come back out, the fans got their wish as Pearl Jam came back through the first exit (just one away from my seat).

Getting more opportunities to sing along, the crowd got revved up as Vedder jumped around and the band broke into "Evenflow." Gossard even got to do his great new song "Mankind," while Vedder stood to the side singing backing vocals and playing a tambourine. Where Vedder sometimes sings the chorus from Pink Floyd's "The Wall" at the end of "Daughter," this time he substituted David Bowie's "Fame, Fame, Fame."

At the end of the concert, Pearl Jam was playing just for the fans. The band had already completed every song on its play list, plus several more decided on during ad hoc meetings at center stage. Vedder let the crowd vote on the last song to be played. Pearl Jam closed the show with "Footsteps," and after that added "Yellow Ledbetter."

Vedder also told us

about how when he was a kid going to concerts, he had always wanted to see the last show on tour because he thought it would be the best since the band would play the longest and party the longest. But since he has been in a band, he's learned that the last show is the worst and that the second to last show is the best, so we were the lucky ones. "And that's the truth," he assured us. Pearl Jam proved that to us by their energy, show length, and benevolence towards the crowd.

The crowd, in return, showed their admiration for the five-piece by continuously shouting and yelling while filing out of the venue onto the street and into their cars (I hope the band heard all the excitement). I, like many other fans, wouldn't have traded that night for any other in the world.

Logos Studies The Stars For You

by Katie Hill and Nika Ferdowski

Gemini — It's a good time for you to finally open up to that special someone. Keep your priorities straight because sometimes your family supports you more than your friends do.

Cancer — This is a good month for you to make a personal inventory and decide where some positive changes can be made. Sometime this month you will mega-procrastinate, and this will hurt your average big-time.

Leo — Beware of running low on cash, so forget about buying that new pair of jeans. Don't worry, it'll pay off later this month. Patience with a younger sibling will earn you points with your parents.

Virgo — Mind your manners this weekend; it will pay off when you need to use your parents' car. Don't be too gullible this month — someone

will try to pull a fast one on you.

Libra — Take that baby-sitting job when offered, even if it means missing out on a great party. Believe me, the extra cash you get will pay off.

Scorpio — This month is a new beginning for you. Exercise this week — get in shape, get fit, get organized, do new things! Your relationships with teachers will majorly improve if you put some effort into them.

Sagittarius — When things get tough on the homefront, which they tend to do, try to be flexible. (Especially if you want to go to the Pumpkins concert!)

Capricorn — This month it is better to observe than involve yourself in gossip. Watch out because things get around — especially if you are talking about your friends. A guy friend will need your help around the 15th.

Aquarius — Remember to make new friends but keep the old. Don't just ditch your old friends; when you need a shoulder to cry on, it's the old friends who will help you out. Hang out with friends who understand what you're going through.

Pisces — At the beginning of this month, you'll be driving down a bumpy road with your significant other. The trouble can be cleared up if you get to the bottom of your problems.

Aries — Your grades will take a drop the first couple of weeks this month. If you actually study, maybe with some friends, your grades will improve.

Taurus — Watch out for Mrs. Baughman; she's just waiting to give you a pink slip. Keep your shirt tucked in and don't be too rowdy. Don't get a detention if you want to go to that party next weekend.

Better Late Than Never: Dave Matthews Comes Back To Play Starwood

by Vanessa Falk

Well girls, Dave finally came back to Nashville. After his scheduled concert on Wednesday, September the eleventh, was canceled due to the death of the drummer's infant, no one could wait until his return. The band could not reschedule that weekend because of previously committed concert dates. However, he came back after the rest of his tour, and he was stronger than ever. On Friday, October eighteenth, Dave Matthews Band played remarkably well at eight-thirty on that chilly night.

The crowd was dressed from bundled-up Eskimos, to fools wearing tank-tops and shorts. A mood of anticipation filled the crowd when Dave appeared on stage. He played a vast assortment of

songs from his first hit "Tripping Billies," to his most current hit "Crash." He played his classics, such as "Satellite" and "Ants Marching" with the crowd singing along in awe. His performance consisted of prominent solos in practically all of his songs. One song "Jimmy Thing" lasted over twenty minutes, filled with endless musical performances by all of the band members. The lighting throughout the concert was marvelous, with all the colors of the rainbow. After two hours of continuous playing, they left the stage, but only to come back with a few encores. When it was over, the crowd stood dreaming that the concert had just begun. It was a spectacular and breath-taking event, and the anticipation the crowd felt was much worth the wait.

Angry Students Speak Out Against the Assembly Cancellation

It's Time For Tolerance At HH

by Lauren O'Neill

Harpeth Hall is trying to break some invisible barriers. The invisible ones are the hardest. In the past few years, the students, faculty, and administration have exhibited the desire for change. We want to be diverse. We want to be more active in the Harpeth Hall and Nashville communities. We want to start giving ourselves, as students, a voice stronger and more resonant throughout the school. The fruits of our labors in reaching for those goals can be seen distinctly on a bar graph, a newly erected house, or heard from a heated debate on affirmative action.

Some goals, unlike service and diversity, are not so easily mapped. Within the aforementioned issues runs a common thread: the respect and tolerance of others. Funny that when we get to the core of things, we shirk our responsibility for an overall positive change with a simple shrug of the shoulders and a muttered, "But you can't change things."

Do we contradict ourselves? We are large. We contain multitudes — yes, but we can't as a student body name ourselves as all-embracing altruists when we shun one group and not another. Why is it *en vogue* at Harpeth Hall to hold informative assemblies on the Holocaust, which deals with the massive prejudice and intolerance towards Jews, and shirk the responsibility of informing the students of other prejudices and ruthless discrimination pervasive to our culture?

The issue of gay rights is at a constant flux in our nation, and gays, like other groups that may differ from "Mainstream America," are asking for the acceptance that they deserve, and have for so long been denied, from the American public. It seems to be okay for you and I to label gays as "sick" or "hell-bound" and sum up their entire living existence and place it in a

thimble which reads: "This person was in love with another person of the same sex; therefore, they mean and deserve nothing."

What I think we are forgetting, is that the operative word in the phrase DIFFERENT PEOPLE is *people*, not different. I think that it is disheartening that at Harpeth Hall and throughout our entire community, we equate gays to serial rapists on the totem pole of morality. Having a moral quandary about homosexuality is no excuse for hatred.

Recently, several students conscious of these views have taken the well-hidden initiative to try to make a change. The Beyond Hate Club had sponsored an assembly, scheduled for the 14th, last Thursday, in which a panel of gay and lesbian couples have been asked to share with us their encounters with prejudices based on their sexual orientation. The assembly is not about the *Kama Sutra for Gays and Lesbians in the World*. It is about trying to overcome the deep-seeded animosity and abhorrence that we have about people that are not like us.

Unfortunately, the bar graph for tolerance is not tangible. It is an implicit trait which cannot be expressed through the increasing math ability of a tutored inner-city child or a banner that we hang in our lobby. We measure tolerance by silence and whispers. And the decibel count at Harpeth Hall, when it comes to issues of strong prejudice and intolerance such as racism and homophobia, is extremely low.

If students are using their religion as an argument for their stance on the issue of the upcoming assembly, then I implore them to keep their religious arguments but dig a little deeper. I remember an obscure, little passage in The Bible read, "Thou shalt not hate," and another told us with

authority to "Love thy neighbor." One of the fundamental laws that The Bible sets down is that of respect for our fellow men and women. Does that not open some doors?

I think that this Beyond Hate assembly was trying to do exactly what the club's name aims for: acquiring the ability to transcend the stereotypes that we all have and reach a higher level of compassion for the people of the world, be they gay, black, female, midgets, albinos, or white-Anglo-Saxon-Protestants.

Because of our sheltered environment, it is very easy for us to formulate opinions about the goings-on in the expansive world around us. We need to break these encapsulating barriers that keep us from the rest of the world and break those voices within ourselves that whisper to us in timid tones to keep with our vicious circle of indifference to the world beyond ourselves. We can change things. And it is up to every one of us to try.

I hope that twenty years from now this article will seem superfluous. As for now, I applaud the Beyond Hate Club for making this huge and important effort. This is the impetus for overcoming hatred that Harpeth Hall has needed for some time.

In the words of John Lennon, both an artist and a peace activist,

Imagine,
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too.
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace.

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one.
I hope some day you will join us.
And the world will live as one.

Administration's Decision Found Unacceptable

by Devon Williamson

I am overwhelmed with the decision our administration, namely Mrs. Rhys, Mrs. Baughman, and the Executive Board of Trustees, made to cancel the Beyond Hate assembly due to pressure from the parents of Harpeth Hall. Obviously, our community still lives in a time past; a time when Jews were gassed for their beliefs and African-Americans had to use separate bathrooms. Hate has run its rampant heels across Souby Lawn, tearing up the newly grown grass and laying bare the deep, rich, and dark nature upon which Harpeth Hall's stately walls are grounded.

Intolerance then, is proven to be our Alma Mater: an intolerance fed by ignorance and an unwillingness to listen. Now the song we sing at assemblies rolls off my tongue with an insipid and sour taste: "And of they Destiny so Fair, Proud Privilege to Sing." I cannot take pride in the hypocrisy of suppressing a movement against discrimination in the name of unity. If we cannot be united as the human race, regardless of religion, color, or sexual preference, then what insubstantial flag do we claim to march under? Certainly the "Magnolia Green" emblem of this school is soiled and corrupted beyond recognition.

I wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees in an effort to turn my pen, or in this case my keyboard, to slaying the dragons

which currently rage within our halls. Their names are common in the smoke enshrouded lands of "The Past" and "The Media," but today the fiery breath of Hatred, Discrimination, Fear, and Ignorance singe the hair upon my neck as I walk to and from classes.

Are we, the students of Harpeth Hall, to follow the clear and limpid teachings of our elders? Should we be as free and open-handed in our discrimination as they are? Shall I come to Chemistry class tomorrow, sit down at my desk, and proceed to lash out at all that I do not understand, at all that is different? Perhaps I should decide that people with blond hair and blue eyes do not exist, are not human, because they do not look like me. Or maybe Catholics in my class should be relegated to the level of beasts for their beliefs. Better yet, why don't we just burn all the homosexuals who "recruit, because they can't reproduce."

I can only hope that if I suddenly began to behave like a pedantic two-year-old, I would be swiftly put out of my misery with a dose of Arsenic from the Chemistry Lab that day. Unfortunately, those of narrow and closed minds cannot be so easily eliminated. Instead, I see the dragons that haunt our souls riding on the shoulders of my peers. All I can hope is that these reptiles will never sink their unforgiving claws into my tender flesh.

Please see more
opinions on page 6.
See what your peers
think and make your
own decision!

Assembly Opponents Concerned About Morality Questions And School Unity

Gay/Lesbian Debate *Forgive The Sinner, But Not A School Issue Don't Support The Sin*

by Megan Youngblood

Why was it that Beyond Hate felt the need to have a special assembly on gays and lesbians? If they wanted to express the fact that gays and lesbians are just regular people, then why must they have a special assembly about it? I say we have a set of assemblies on regular people. If they can have a gay assembly, then why can't I sponsor "The First Annual Straight Assembly?"

The basic question that needs to be asked is this: Was Beyond Hate trying to make the students of Harpeth Hall feel good about gays or was Beyond Hate trying to change the opinions and perceptions we as students hold about gays? One assembly period was not going to change the average student's views about homosexuality. So far, all

this assembly has done is sparked anger and rage, instead of promoting "harmony."

I personally do not think that this issue should be addressed during school hours. It is inappropriate to mix a personal matter such as sexual preference with a school environment. Our parents are not paying thousands of dollars for us to learn about the sexual preferences of others. We are in school to learn the basics that will help us build a strong foundation for the future. We are not in school to learn about homosexual lifestyles.

If an assembly or a "special program" is to be held, it must, and I repeat, must, be held outside of school hours. This is NOT an issue to be dealt with in school. It is a personal matter and should be dealt with on a personal level.

by Carrie Gauchat

During the past week, I've reflected a lot upon the current issue of homosexuality which has come up because of the recently canceled Beyond Hate Assembly. I've struggled with my attitude towards the subject and have been made to feel almost guilty because of my point of view. My mind has not changed, and I will continue to take the stand I always have taken. I am not a racist. I am not a bigot. I don't believe in hate. I am not a feminist, but I don't believe in male dominance. I am the daughter of a middle-class, white American family, raised with a Christian background, and this is my opinion towards homosexuals.

According to my religious beliefs, homosexuality is an abomination. Not only is this my religious belief, but it is also my personal opinion as a human being. One of the main functions of an animal is to reproduce; if persons of the same sex were meant to be together, they would be able to reproduce together. As far as I know, there has not been any scientific proof that this is possible.

Besides the fact that I

think homosexuality is morally wrong, I also believe that it cannot be looked upon as other discriminated minority groups are. There was the idea of having a varied panel for this assembly. For example, having an African-American, a woman, a Hispanic, and a homosexual. One of these people is not like the others. Homosexuality is not a gender, it is not a creed, it is not a race; it is a sexual preference. If we were to have a panel on which a homosexual would fit, it could contain a prostitute, a pedophile, and someone who practices bestiality. I agree that this seems harsh, but it is not meant in a hateful manner. These are all people who have chosen to live a life based on a sexuality that the majority of us would agree is immoral.

When I was born a female, I had no choice in that decision, which is why I feel that I should not be discriminated against. Some people may say that homosexuals don't have a choice, but with as many gays as there are now, it's hard for me to believe that they were born that way. I do believe that they chose the lifestyle they lead and should be prepared to face the

consequences.

I am not condoning discrimination and hate towards gays because even though my religion tells me that it is wrong, it also teaches me that I must hate the sin and love the sinner. The assembly said that it was neither condemning nor condoning sexuality, but rather promoting awareness and acceptance. The awareness and acceptance movement that gays have recently promoted has led to the idea that it is okay and is an option for everyone. People use the word homophobic, saying that people are simply afraid of something different; I will be the first to admit that I am scared. The fact that we are accepting this type of behavior and sending the message to our children that sexuality is a choice is absolutely terrifying. If we present this as acceptable, what will be next?

I do condemn homosexuality, not homosexuals themselves; that is not my responsibility. I know the administration did not give an opinion on the actual topic, but I commend them for putting the unity of the school above this issue.

Logos II printed all Opinions articles submitted.

You have a voice! Express it through *Logos II*.

The Open-Minded Discriminate, Too

by Courtney Weaver

All of us should be disappointed with this week's events and frustrated with the willingness many of us feel to tell others what they should believe. As students at Harpeth Hall, we frequently are labeled with stereotypes. We are rich, snobs, and get everything we want — to name a few. We can resent, but tolerate, these false perceptions from some who are outside of our community, but we should refuse to accept this stereotypical nonsense from those inside our community.

Regardless of your opinion of the administration's decision to cancel this week's assembly program, the leaders of our school were placed in a

difficult position and acted appropriately on behalf of ALL students. Although cancellation of the program has been an emotional issue for many of us, it gives no one leave to openly insult others' views.

All of us should pause and realize that simply because our fellow students do not happen to share whatever our opinions might be, discrimination is not acceptable on the part of any of us. I think that some of the individuals who consider themselves "open-minded" regarding the issue of homosexuality are being discriminatory towards their fellow students who do not share their opinion. I chose not to speak at the open assembly, not because of an

insecurity about my beliefs, but rather because I was truly unhappy with the way many of us were dealing with one another.

Following the assembly, I overheard several people say, "Where was the opposition? Are those girls too scared to speak their minds?" In response, one only needs to reflect on this past week and the intolerance which has caused sharp words, tears, and cold silences between girls of different opinions. Neither "open-mindedness" nor "conservatism" are license, in other words, for condemnation of opinions and feelings of others.

Why Tolerate The Intolerant?

by Kristen Campbell

Only at Harpeth Hall could we turn controversy over a Beyond Hate assembly intended to address hate crimes into a situation where students have been discriminated against because their peers won't respect their beliefs. The panel of gay and lesbian speakers scheduled to talk to us had dealt with horrible prejudices and intolerance, yet students have been more upset about people disagreeing with their opinions than the hatred homosexuals face every day.

Hatred and intolerance are not beliefs; they are unfounded dogmas which don't deserve acceptance. Even here at Harpeth Hall, students would agree Hitler's discriminatory policies were wrong. His anti-Semitic doctrine isn't "just a different point of view," it is a vicious belief system which shouldn't be tolerated. When you go beyond ideology to actually hating other people, others have no obligation to respect your beliefs. Your lack of respect for

people warrants my lack of respect for your opinion.

By teaching tolerance, the Beyond Hate Club hoped to unite people from all backgrounds. Ironically, the administration canceled the assembly because they felt that it was dividing the school. Dividing the parents from the school would be a more accurate assessment, an economic situation the HH administration quickly avoided by cancelling the assembly.

Parents are paying \$8,000 dollars a year to have their children educated, not to propagate their ignorant views. In fact, the homophobic response to the assembly demonstrates how badly the program was needed for parents as well as students. The Beyond Hate Club may have been applauded by the administration and the Board of Trustees, but that approval does little to ameliorate the rampant prejudices at Harpeth Hall.

The discrimination of homosexuals is far from the

only type of hatred at our school. In this community, students still use the "n" word, draw rebel flags on their shoes, and refer to anything nonwhite as "their" culture. This racism should not be ignored just because it is in part fostered by the parents. Prejudices are wrong, regardless of who is holding the money.

This acquiescence to every whim of the Harpeth Hall parents has undermined the school's very purpose, creating an institution where students can't even respect themselves, let alone other cultures. I have recently argued with students who feel that women are unfit to be president, shouldn't serve in the military, or shouldn't work at all. What exactly was the point of an all-girls education?

Despite the prejudices which I have encountered here, I still have hope that Harpeth Hall will become a place of respect and tolerance. It certainly won't be until I am far, far away from this campus and until the school itself takes some responsibility to educate.

Students Chow Down On Foreign Cuisine

by Emily Cummings

Food Fest, the ever popular chow down of foreign foods, came earlier than usual this year on Tuesday, October 29 at 6:00. This traditional language club extravaganza was made possible by the teachers and members of the Latin Club, Spanish Club, and French Club by concocting the unique ethnic foods of their culture.

Students purchased their tickets in the gallery, first, in order to enter Bullard gym for an evening of sampling foods and entertainment. Ms. Behymer

made her debut performance as a Spanish dancer with instructional lessons to the *Macarena*.

Mrs. Ward commented that this was the best Food Fest ever, since it was also the "Day of the Dead" in Spain. Therefore, truly inspired students came in costume while enjoying a night of friends, food, and dancing. It was a great success and fun break from school while enjoying the specialties of each culture. A big thanks to all who helped prepare the delicious foods and organize this annual festival!

There Shouldn't Be Controversy Over The Correctness of Hatred

by Linsey Scruggs

Discrimination. Just one word can raise such controversy. And why? Because our society has raised us to be prejudiced against people who are different from us. We may not be directly told to discriminate, but we have learned from others' actions.

When someone we look up to is prejudiced, we believe that that is what is right. Discrimination seemingly makes us feel better about ourselves; we are of a higher class. You know what? If you believe that idea; if you believe that a person should be judged by the color of skin, by their choice of religion, or God forbid, who they should choose to love, be they black, white, gay, straight, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, or Muslim, you should take a minute to

actually sit down and think about why you are discriminating. Sit and think why you, to put it bluntly, do not like them. Even *The Bible* says that you should love everyone and not judge each other.

The topic of our assembly was about discrimination against gays and lesbians. There are many people in our community at Harpeth Hall, as in many other communities, who are prejudiced because they don't understand that preferring someone of the same sex does not make you a bad person.

This assembly was, as a lot of people commented, "a sensitive issue." Why is this, though? The purpose of this assembly was not to inform students about homosexual lifestyles or bedside manners,

and the speakers were not going to attempt to convert us to homosexuality. There was not going to be sign-up list after the assembly. This assembly did not promote homosexuality in any way; it simply discussed some people's experiences with discrimination of that genre.

The fact is that it was not the students or the faculty who did not want the assembly, it was the overbearing parents and the board. In fact, in an unofficial survey, I asked 88 people if they wanted to keep the assembly. Of those I asked, 83 wanted to keep it.

The bottom line is: we may not choose that particular lifestyle ourselves, but why discriminate and make uncomfortable those who choose to live their lives the way they feel is right.

Harpeth Hall Links To The Future

by Kristen Campbell

By the time Harpeth Hall students graduate, they have mastered how to turn a computer on and have an adequate enough grasp of word-processing skills to type their English papers. With new technology grants, however, Harpeth Hall is hoping that future graduating classes will be able to surf the net and download materials from the World Wide Web.

The technology department is hard at work developing new features so that students can have greater access to computers and even the internet. Hopefully, by second semester all seniors will have their own e-mail accounts. Students will be able to create internet bulletin boards for their clubs or hold debates about a controversial assembly on the computers. There will be a short training course, informing students on acceptable uses of the internet, and both students and their parents will have to sign an Acceptance Policy. For underclassmen, the technology experts hope that teachers will

incorporate articles on the World Wide Web into their classes, so that the younger students can experience the internet, as well.

The administration is also working on a Harpeth Hall web page, which will be created by input from faculty and students. The page will include information about the purpose of The Harpeth Hall School as well as updates about school events.

Once all the bugs are worked out, the new internet access should revolutionize how teachers teach and students learn. Besides just the incredible opportunity to have internet access, the wiring system which has been installed is so very fast that it takes no time at all to connect to different pages, making knowledge available in the blink of an eye.

The new features of Harpeth Hall's computer program are an introduction to what our lives will be like in several years — everything run over computer and communication by e-mail. Harpeth Hall's new technology is providing students with the opportunity to seize the future.

The cross-country team was undefeated in regular season competition. They won Metro, District, and Regional Championships and completed their accomplished season with a second-place finish at the state finals.

In addition to their team success, several soccer players netted individual honors: Beth Kautzman and Kathleen Hale were district honorable-mention, Kristen Campbell, Katie Jackson, and Tiffany Watson were second-team district, and Katie Tidwell and Shannon Shillinglaw were first-team district. Kauzman, Lisa Housholder, and Watson were named to the All-District Tournament team, while Jackson and Watson made the State Tournament team.

Soccer Team Rewrites The Record Books

by Ashley Fairey

The HH soccer team has had a spectacular season. Led by seniors Kristen Campbell, Katie Jackson, Beth Kautzman, Carrie Smith, and Katie Tidwell, this team has overcome losses and beaten many rivals.

The team was second place in the district after regular season play and was runner-up in the tournament, losing 2-0 to Father Ryan. This game, however, was not the last face-off between the Bears and the Irish. After districts, the Honeybears played Hume-Fogg in regional competition, winning with the largest margin of victory in the season, 11-0! Once again HH would play Ryan for a championship game, but this time, just one team would go on to compete in the state tournament.

With everyone so pumped up and focused on the game, the Bears played what many have said to be "the best game ever." The result: HH — 1, Father Ryan — 0. The Tennessean said that this was the most surprising victory in the tournament, and although

this may be true, it was a well-deserved win. The team was so excited that sophomore Brie Brown even did handsprings down the field. The team celebrated this sweet victory by going to eat at Darryl's after the game.

The Bears advanced to play Hendersonville in front of a huge home crowd. Tiffany Watson scored two goals early, and the defense hung on for the rest of the game to give the team a 2-1 victory. The win sent the team to the state semi-finals for the first time in school history.

In front of a supportive crowd at Brentwood High, the Honeybears faced off against a Houston soccer team that was just too tough. Harpeth Hall held Houston to only one goal in the first half, but couldn't match Houston in the second, losing 5-1 to the eventual state champions.

The seniors hope that this season will begin a new winning tradition of Harpeth Hall soccer and plan to return in a couple of years to see HH take home that state championship trophy.

X-Country Succeeds (Again) Through Strong Team Unity

by Karen Sweeney

My heart beats so loudly that its pounding is the only thing I can hear. Everything around me — the course, my teammates and competitors, the spectators — is one endless blur. My body feels limp and numb except for the burning sensation of excitement and fear felt deep within me. The race's starter begins to speak. I can hear him say words, yet I have no idea what he is saying. He finally stops talking, and my mind is filled with complete silence. Suddenly, the gun goes off.

As the sound of explosion fills my ears, something explodes in me. While still in a daze, my body begins to move. I cannot feel my arms and legs, yet they are moving quickly up the hill. All of a sudden, I can hear the piercing yells of encouragement from Coach Russ. Slowly, as if awakened, I move from my dream-like world to reality. I realize that I have already run

the first quarter mile of the course. I am breathing hard, I am tired, and I know that I have a long distance ahead of me. As I often do in this part of the race, I start to wonder, "Why do I do this?"

Although I have asked myself the same question endless times throughout the season, I have always, in the back of my mind, known the answer: I run cross-country for the same reasons that my teammates do — because deep down in my heart I love the sport and the time that I spend with the team. I run to feel the amazing sense of accomplishment and elation that comes with crossing the finish-line after three miles of pushing through pain.

I love the pride that I feel as the whole team looks at a trophy that we have won through hard work. But mostly, I love the team. As a team of almost all upperclassmen, we are lucky enough to know and like each other well. Each of

us, especially seniors Ruth Duncan, Amy Enders, Anne Hancock, Ashley Haury, and Grace Verner, helps the others through the hard times and enjoys every minute of the good. An onlooker would never recognize the focused, serious athletes before a race as the same girls that stuff themselves with artichoke dip and pizza after races or who can be seen in the pumpkin patch of Kroger at midnight Thursday night, scheming to write shaving cream declarations of love all over their coach's yard. Nor would an onlooker guess that these are the same girls who decorate each other's cars with shoe polish and that dedicate poems to newspaper writers whose articles are less than flattering.

And as I snap back to focus on my race and think about making it over the next hill, I realize that despite the pain I am feeling right now, I am lucky to be a member of such a special team.

Several teachers were misquoted in last issue's "Teacher Hijinxes" article. *Logos* regrets the errors.



The Harpeth Hall Soccer Team is recognized before the state quarter-final match.

photo courtesy of Kristen Campbell

Global Headlines

Nation

Clinton wins by electoral vote of 376 to 153!

A 16-month old girl died November 8 after consuming a fruit drink believed to be contaminated with the E. coli virus. The fruit juice maker, Oswalla Inc. has recalled 16 of its beverages.

The US Army will try four drill sergeants and a company commander on charges ranging from sexual misconduct to the rape of female trainees. The men on trial are from the Army Ordnance Center in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Journalist Pierre Salinger reports that he has a document disclosing that the Flight 800 crash was caused by the accidental firing of a US Navy missile. The Navy denies the reports and declares Salinger's document to be a fabrication which has been on the internet since August.

Affirmative-Action foes won a victory in a California vote last week which will encourage them to bring Affirmative-Action bans to the table again.

Jesse Jackson threatened to organize a boycott of Texaco after executives were recorded making racist remarks at a meeting

World

Boris Yeltsin is recovering after his quintuple heart bypass surgery last week.

Hutu refugees flee from the fighting between the Zaire Army and Tutsi rebels in Northeast Zaire. Without foreign intervention, workers fear many of the 1.1 million refugees will die from starvation.

The cyclone which struck India November 7 has left at least 1,000 dead. The five-hour storm destroyed 2 highly-populated areas and left hundreds lost at sea.

A new scientific discovery declares that dinosaurs and other animals became extinct due to the impact of a low-angle asteroid. The asteroid created a "corridor of incineration" which destroyed the animals.

Headlines adapted from stories in The Tennessean

There comes a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as is his portion.

-Emerson

Song of Myself

by Walt Whitman

The spotted hawk swoops by and accuses me, he complains of my gab and my loitering.

I too am not a bit tamed, I too am untranslatable,
I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.

The last scud of day holds back for me,
It flings my likeness after the rest and true as any on the shadow'd wilds,
It coaxes me to the vapor and the dusk.

I depart as air, I shake my white locks at the runaway sun,
I effuse my flesh in eddies, and drift in lacy jags.

I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love,
If you want me again look for me under your boot-soles.

You will hardly know who I am or what I mean,
But I shall be good health to you nevertheless,
And filter and fiber your blood.

Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged,
Missing me one place search another,
I stop somewhere waiting for you.

Election Should Encourage Students To Use Voices

by Allison Brown

As the year 1996 begins to fade and we look onward to the exciting events to come after the new year, what is it that will remain in our memories about this year? Perhaps this fall has been your first ever in high school, or the year when you finally became licensed to drive, or you were elected to an office, or you earned a letter jacket for playing a sport. The seniors will surely never forget this time as one of confusion and excitement, of hope and anxiety. After all, by the time January 1, 1997, rolls around, most of the seniors will have sent off applications to higher learning institutions which have survived the "decision process." But seriously, how many of us will

remember the important events which shaped the world during 1996? Will you remember that on November 5, 1996, the people of the United States of America elected a leader of their country?

Perhaps you think that the Presidential election in the US does not qualify as a world-shaping event, but I beg to differ. Whoever wins a majority of the electoral votes on election day becomes the automatic ambassador to the rest of the globe of one of the most powerful and influential countries in the world. The president could be faced with choices where his or her decisions could mean the destruction of entire regions. If history repeats itself, thousands could perish at the whim of the

Commander-In-Chief. Many people now view the government as nothing more than a greedy, self-serving bureaucracy, but like it or not, these are the men and women who have the power to either make our country into the greatest democracy ever created, or to turn our lives upside down.

Maybe the idea that Bob Dole or Bill Clinton could command the fate of our nation appalls you. I find it frightening that a man older than my grandparents, who wants to implement laws which hurt the impoverished and disadvantaged, remove the ban on assault weapons, and make abortion legal, might be given the opportunity to carry out these plans. It also scares me that a man who continues to try

and please everyone by compromising the platform on which he was elected and who wants to create even more federally-supported programs without balancing the budget, could continue to run the country in the way he has run it in the past, without fixing what he has neglected in the first four years. Even so, if I had been legally eligible on election day, I would have cast my vote for a candidate, not necessarily one of the men previously mentioned, and be grateful that at least here in America, we have the opportunity to choose our leaders.

The fact that you may not support either the Republican or the Democratic Presidential candidates is no excuse not to participate in the election

process. When enough voters finally vote for an independent candidate, Washington will get the message that if they don't clean up their acts, they may not have a chance of being re-elected. When you do not agree with the way things are run in the country, action, not passivity, is the only way that anything will ever be changed. I urge all of you to examine your views and the issues and make a decision about your future. Hopefully, this new presidential term will not result in anything that will negatively affect you, and maybe these next four years will come and go without a single tragic occurrence. Just remember that your opinion and your vote matter, and you should not hesitate to offer either one.